

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

L-03 DRC-01 OMB-01 /091 W

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R 290253Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0662

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, RP

SUBJECT: CHURCH/GOVERNMENT BURY HATCHET

REF: MANILA 338

1. MEETING OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE AT BAGUIO
JAN 21-25 CONCLUDED WITH AT LEAST TEMPORARY COMPROMISE
IN CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND CHURCH. BISHOPS
ELECTED PHIL'S LONE CARDINAL, ROSALES, AS PRESIDENT OF
CBCP. CBCP UNDER ROSALES IN TURN SUPPORTED REVIEW OF
ALL CHURCH PROGRAMS TO UPDATE AND INTENSIFY SOCIAL
ACTION ASPECTS.

2. COMMENT: COMPROMISE FACILITATED BY TEMPORARY EASING
OF GOP PRESSURE ON CHURCH (REFTEL) AND BISHOPS' DESIRE
TO AVOID INTERNAL FIGHT. GOVERNMENT HAS CONSEQUENTLY
OBTAINED REPRIEVE FOR AT LEAST NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. DURABILITY OF COMPROMISE DEPENDENT ON KIND OF MODUS
VIVENDI ROSALES, NOTORIOUSLY CONSERVATIVE FRIEND OF MRS.
MARCOS, AND HIS LIBERAL-DOMINATED ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
CAN ACHIEVE. LIBERALS PRESUMABLY BANK ON ROSALES' LACK
OF FORCEFULNESS AND GOOD HEARING THEIR SOCIAL ACTION CON-
CERNS GOT DURING MEETING TO ADVANCE THEIR INTERESTS. EVEN
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IF LIBERALS MODERATE TONE OF THEIR APPROACH, HOWEVER, IT
WILL TAKE SIMILAR MODIFICATION ON GOP SIDE TO LAY GROUND

FOR MORE LASTING STAND DOWN. FIRST TEST OF COMPROMISE MAY
COME WHEN NEW CBCP LEADERSHIP DISCUSSES WITH GOP THE OPINION
POLL OF ASSOCIATION OF MAJOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS (CEBU A-25);
WHICH, ACCORDING EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MELCHOR, HAS
"PERTURBED" GOP.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANILA01047
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974019/aaaaahwm.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MANILA 338
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <04-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHURCH/GOVERNMENT BURY HATCHET
TAGS: PGOV, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005